

# Monthly Columns

by Attorney General Jack Conway



## December 2010

As we embark on a new year, I want you to know what an honor and privilege it is to serve the citizens of this great Commonwealth. I ran for Attorney General because I believe it is a position in which a person can truly make a difference for Kentucky families. The work being done by this office is touching lives, young and old, in every corner of the Commonwealth. I'd like to share with you some of our many accomplishments from the past year.

### Elder Abuse & Neglect

- Reorganized Office of Medicaid Fraud and Abuse Control to devote additional investigators to elder abuse and neglect cases.
- Charged 21 individuals or entities relating to abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults in 2010, bringing the total number of charges to 55 since I took office.

### Combating Medicaid Fraud

- Increased Medicaid recoveries by more than 600% since 2008 when I took office.
- Awarded or recovered more than \$20.3 million in 2010, bringing our total recoveries since I took office in 2008 to more than \$141 million for the Kentucky Medicaid program and taxpayers.

### Rate Intervention

- Rate increase settlement with E.ON U.S., the parent company for LG&E and Kentucky Utilities, saving ratepayers nearly \$68 million.
- Reached settlement with Columbia Gas of Kentucky that reduced the company's demand for a rate hike by nearly 50%, resulting in a \$5.44 million decrease from the original request.
- Settlement with Duke Energy reduced the company's original request for a rate increase by more than 25% or \$4.49 million.

- Total savings for Kentucky ratepayers in 2010 was more than \$127.5 million. Since 2008, I've saved ratepayers \$230.3 million in proposed rate increases.

### Combating Prescription Drug Abuse

- Launched statewide initiative with state government partners and concerned parents to alert Kentucky families, particularly teens, to the dangers of abusing prescription drugs.
  - Effort included prescription drug prevention and education programs at middle and high schools, PSA Contest for Kentucky students, distribution of RX abuse informational posters to Kentucky pharmacies, prescription drug abuse information page on the Attorney General's website at <http://ag.ky.gov/rxabuse.htm> and a video telling the stories of two Kentucky moms who lost daughters to prescription drug overdoses.
- Statewide Prescription Drug Diversion Task Force opened 91 investigations and made nine arrests on 30 counts. Since 2008, the Drug Branch has opened 377 investigations, made 118 arrests and seized nearly 4,500 illegal pills.
- Participated in 14 drug round-ups.
- Trained more than 800 prosecutors and law enforcement in prescription drug diversion.

### Protecting Kentucky Kids

- Launched the KY Kids Alert program with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services to alert parents and child-care providers about the importance of child product recall information. Because of this effort, nearly 3,000 Kentucky child-care centers and certified family child-care homes are now receiving these potentially lifesaving recall alerts.

### Protecting Kentucky Communities

- Worked with state partners to implement the Electronic Warrant Management System (eWarrants) in 16 of Kentucky's rural counties under the \$3.9 million American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant awarded to the Attorney General's Office in 2009.
- Counties with eWarrant system have seen their service rates on arrest warrants jump from about 25% to as high as 80%. We are making progress toward our goal of implementing eWarrants in 100 rural counties by year's end.

### Protecting Kentucky Consumers

- Launched investigation into the questionable business practices of seven of Kentucky's for-profit colleges. Issued civil subpoenas to schools with high student loan default rates.
- Announced agreement with Student Loan Xpress, Inc. resulted in a \$3.6 million reduction in the loan obligations for students who attended a now bankrupt West Kentucky law school.
- Led nationwide effort to stop abuses on the popular Internet message board website, Topix.com. With the support of 34 attorneys general, we reached an agreement with Topix to eliminate the website's \$19.99 fee for "priority review" of abusive or inappropriate posts.

### Cybercrimes

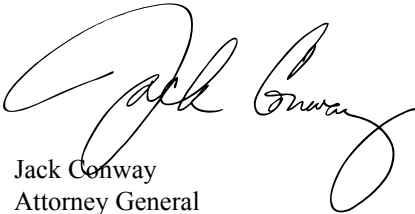
- Launched 65 new investigations and seized more than 145,000 child pornographic images and videos from the Internet. Since its creation in 2008, the Cybercrimes Unit, a member of the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, has conducted 188 investigations, made 33 arrests and seized more than 191,000 child pornographic images.

- Digital forensic lab processed more than 1,900 hard drives and removable devices in 2010 bringing the total number examined since 2008 to 2,688. This puts crucial digital evidence now involved in approximately 80% of crimes into the hands of law enforcement and prosecutors more quickly.

## **Civil & Environmental Law**

- Issued 231 Open Records and Open Meetings Appeals decisions.
- Provided legal representation for 18 state agencies and 38 licensure boards.
- Received requests and accepted legal services for 485 new litigation cases in 2010 which brings the total number of open litigation cases to 1,112.
- Received payment of \$105 million under the 1998 Master Settlement Agreement which is used for funding specific state programs.

I am proud of all that we have accomplished for Kentucky families over the past year, despite these challenging economic times. Since I took office in 2008, we've saved Kentuckians more than one-third of a billion dollars. My staff and I look forward to announcing new initiatives in 2011 that build on my commitment to make Kentucky a safer place to live, work and raise a family.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Conway". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "C".

Jack Conway  
Attorney General